

REMARKS

Applicants are pleased to note that Examiner has allowed Claims 30-45

The Examiner has rejected Claims 22-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,042,293 to Heyde ("Heyde") in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2009/0269836 to Ellison et al. ("Ellison").

Applicants note that Examiner may have intended to object to Claims 30, 43, and 44, as they are ultimately dependent from Claim 22, which stands currently rejected.

Claim 22 stands currently amended to include the limitations of Claim 30, and Claim 30 is currently canceled. Claims 43 and 44 also stand currently amended to depend from Claim 22 instead of Claim 30. Claims 22-29 and 31-45 are currently pending. The following remarks are considered by applicant to overcome each of the Examiner's outstanding rejections to current Claims 22-29. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 22-29 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) BASED ON HEYDE IN VIEW OF ELLISON

On page 2 of the current Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 22-29 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heyde in view of Ellison. These rejections are respectfully traversed and believed overcome in view of the following discussion.

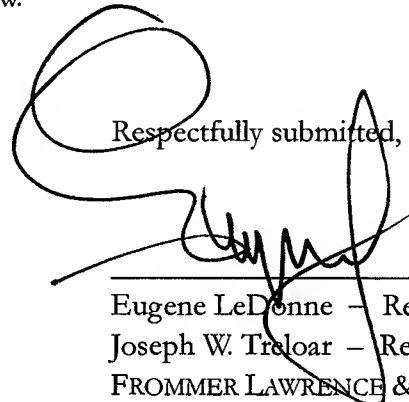
Claim 22 stands currently amended to include all the limitations of Claim 30. The Examiner has admitted that Claim 30 is allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 22 is now in allowable form, as are corresponding Claims 23-29 because they are each ultimately dependent from Claim 22. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner remove the rejection of Claims 22-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,042,293 to Heyde in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2009/0269836 to Ellison et al.

II. NEW CLAIMS 43 AND 44

While Examiner has not objected to Claims 43 and 44, Applicants note that Claims 43 and 44 ultimately depend from independent Claim 22, which stands currently rejected by the Examiner. However, as discussed above, Claim 22 stands amended to be in allowable form. As Claim 22 is allowable, so must be Claims 43 and 44.

Based upon the above remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene LeDonne – Reg. No. 35,930
Joseph W. Treloar – Reg. No. 60,975
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151
Tel.: 212.588.0800

ELD:JWT

135423-2338